

## YUGOSLAVIA:

## **New Concerns Over Kosovo**

The reported discovery of an arms cache in Kosovo, as well as foreign meddling among the Albanians in the area, has increased <u>Yugoslay concern</u> about the country's most restless minority.

he Yugoslavs recently have:

- Uncovered nearly a ton of explosives, rifles, and ammunition near Pristina, the provincial capital.
- Discovered contacts between Albanian nationalists and pro-Soviet sympathizers.
- Arrested a number of armed Albanians who entered
  Yugoslavia clandestinely, as well as several Yugoslav soldiers
  of Albanian nationality

More than three years after riots rocked the largely Albanian-inhabited province of Kosovo, the political and economic demands of Yugoslavia's most volatile minority remain unmet. The Yugoslav Government currently has the situation under control, but the regime's uncompromising response—including the use of the police and military to maintain order—ensures that the ferment will continue.

Despite special efforts by Belgrade to accelerate its development, Kosovo is still Yugoslavia's poorest region. Its 40-percent unemployment rate is the highest in the country

The new claims of foreign involvement add a potentially more destabilizing dimension to the problem. Belgrade already is concerned that, as the succession approaches in Albania, the new leadership there may more actively support the Albanians in Kosovo as a means of distracting public attention from problems at home.